1	2	3
17.	Punjab	1,452,828
18.	Rajasthan	1,391,670
19.	Sikkim	12,851
20.	Tamil Nadu	7,896,295
21.	Tripura	187,538
22.	Uttar Pradesh (including Uttaranchal)	7,833,258
23.	West Bengal	5,055,478
24.	A and N Islands	4,989
25.	Chandigarh	1,642
26.	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	6,233
27..	Delhi	25,195
28.	Goa	35,284
29.	Daman and Diu	1,199
30.	Lakshadweep	—
31.	Mizoram	9,527
32.	Pondicherry	77,203

Number of unemployed youths

†543. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of unemployed youths in the country is on the increase;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase employment opportunities; and

(d) whether Government are considering to give financial assistance to those unemployed youths until they get employment, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained through labour force surveys conducted by National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) from time to time. As per the surveys conducted during 1993-94 and 1999-2000, the number of unemployed persons has marginally gone up from around 75 lakh in 1993-94 to 90 lakh in 1999-2000 as per Usual

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Status Approach. The main reason for increase in the unemployed persons was that the economy did not grow at the desired rate to provide employment opportunities to all the new entrants to the labour force and the backlog of unemployed.

(c) The Ninth Plan had accorded priority to agriculture and rural development with a view to generating adequate productive employment and eradication of poverty. The Plan had focused on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are labour intensive, in regions characterised by higher rates of unemployment and underemployment.

A Special Group has been set up by Planning Commission to suggest measures to generate one crore employment opportunities during each year of the Tenth Five Year plan.

(d) No, Sir.

Welfare fund for overseas workers

544. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to set up a welfare fund for the Indian overseas workers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the other measures Government are taking or proposed to take to protect interests of the Indian workers abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The constitution of the Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund is under consideration of the Government.

(c) The Emigration Act, 1983, provides for safeguarding of interests of Indian workers going overseas for employment on contractual basis. Sporadic complaints regarding delayed payment/non-payment of wages, extra hours of work are received. As and when such complaints are received, Indian Missions and Recruiting Agents are requested/directed to take up the matter with concerned Government/employer to settle the dispute. If the recruiting agent does not comply with the directions, a show-cause notice is issued and if the reply is not found to be justifiable, the license of the recruiting agent is suspended/cancelled.